being made to safeguard the interests of social sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government lays down that:

> "There is a strong link between infrastructure development and financial sector reforms. Infrastructure needs long term finances. The United Front Government will carry out further reforms of the financial sector so that the flow of both domestic and foreign funds to the infrastructure is enhanced substantially".

The Life and Pension Funds generated in the insurance sector, constitute one of the important sources of long term funds available for investments in the infrastructure sector in our country. A view on how best a part of these funds could be made available to infrastructure sector without affecting the other social sector requirements will be examined in consultation with the LIC and the Insurance Regulatory Authority along with the other measures required for reforms in the insurance sector.

Construction of Tourist Bungalows in Kendrapara District of Orissa

1135. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to construct a number of tourist bungalows in the district of Kendrapara in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the location and number of these bungalows to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government officials prioritieses project based on their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

The details of these tourist bungalows would be finalised on receipt of the details proposals from the State Government.

The Department of Tourism has also prioritiesed a project namely Tourism Reception and Cultural information centre at Kendrapara during 96-97.

Request for setting up bench of Kerala High Court in Thiruvananthapuram

1136. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from advocates and other from Thiruvananthapuram for setting up bench of the Kerala High Court there;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is also a demand for establishment of a bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court at Bhopal; and

(d) if so, what action is being contemplated on the issue and by when final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for establishing a bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. However, no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consulation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, in this regard. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, in consulation with the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in this regard, in the light of

recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission. As such, no action is being contemplated by the Central Government in the matter.

Schemes for Modernisation of Textile Industry funded by IDBI

1137. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI is funding some schemes for modernisation of Textile Industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many textile mills in Gujarat have been included in such schemes with details of the mills and funds allocated to each of them by IDBI for their modernisation during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether IDBI proposes to provide funds for the revival of sick textile mills in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of textile policy announced by Government in July 1985, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) along with other institutions introduced Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS) with a corpus of Rs. 750 crore. Under the TMFS, 357 textile units were sanctioned assistance aggregating Rs. 1376 crore out of which Rs. 897.5 crore was disbursed to these units. TMFS was discontinued from August 1991. However, IDBI continues to assist modernisation of textile units under the normal project finance schemes.

(c) IDBI has reported that under the TMFS, 42 textile units in Gujarat have been sanctioned assistance to the tune of Rs. 254.2 crore, disbursements being Rs. 180 crore. Details of Modernisation assistance sanctioned by IDBI to textile units in Gujarat during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	No. of Units	Amount
1993—94	2	3.6
1994—95	2	27.5
1995—96	2	20.0

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the unit-wise details cannot be divulged.

(d) IDBI has agreed to provide funds for revival of sick textile units as per the rehabilitation packages approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

News Item Regarding Nexus Between Corporates and American Express Bank

1138. SHRI RAMADAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 4th November, 1996, captioned "Amex nexus with major companies based";

(b) whether the Reserve Bank's report on American Express Bank bares the nexus between the Bank and several corporates;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Amex Bank has violated banking norms and sanctioned out of the way around Rs. 1000 crores to the industrial groups and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?